

MARTHA F. LEE.

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JULY 25, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. BLISS, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 9704.]

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9704) granting a pension to Martha F. Lee, have considered the same, and report as follows:*

William F. Lee, the claimant's late husband, served in Captain Vincent's company, Georgia Volunteers, for Cherokee removal, from May 14 to June 26, 1838. He was pensioned December 7, 1859, for rheumatism, was dropped under the act of February 4, 1862, for disloyalty, and restored from March 9, 1878, under the act of Congress approved that date.

His death, May 13, 1885, was due to the disease for which he was pensioned. His widow's pension claim, however, was rejected by the Pension Bureau on the ground that there existed no general law under which pension could be granted to the widow of a soldier whose death was due to causes originating during a period of peace prior to March 4, 1861.

The Cherokee removal under which this soldier served is not recognized as a war by the Pension Bureau.

In several similar cases the honorable Commissioner of Pensions has recommended relief by special act.

Moreover, this case falls within the scope of the bill to pension the survivors of the various Indian wars, reported by this committee and now on the Calendar of the House for consideration and action.

Your committee recommend that the bill do pass, amended, however, by striking out all after the word "act," in line 9, and all of lines 10 and 11.